

William L. Taylor Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2003

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm96083885>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010064>

Prepared by Laura J. Kells

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

Collection Summary

Title: William L. Taylor Papers

Span Dates: 1971-1996

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1987-1992)

ID No.: MSS83885

Creator: Taylor, William L., 1931-

Extent: 4,000 items

Extent: 13 containers

Extent: 5.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm96083885>

Summary: Civil rights lawyer and educator. Correspondence, memoranda, reports, speeches, writings, printed matter, and other material related primarily to civil rights legislation and the nominations of Robert H. Bork and Clarence Thomas to the United States Supreme Court.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Bork, Robert H.

Lesko, Wendy.

Pertschuk, Michael, 1933-2022.

Taylor, William L., 1931-2010.

Thomas, Clarence, 1948-

Organizations

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

United States. Civil Rights Act of 1991.

United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on the Judiciary.

United States. Supreme Court--Officials and employees--Selection and appointment.

United States. Supreme Court.

Subjects

Affirmative action programs in education--United States.

African Americans--Civil rights.

Civil rights--United States--Societies, etc.

Civil rights--United States.

Discrimination in education--United States.

Discrimination in employment--United States.

Judges--Selection and appointment--United States.

Minorities--Civil rights--United States.

School integration--United States.

Occupations

Civil rights leaders.

Educators.

Lawyers.

Provenance

The papers of William L. Taylor, civil rights lawyer and educator, were given to the Library by Taylor in 1996. Material from the records of the Center for National Policy Review which came to the Library in 1993 was later transferred to these papers.

Related Material

Taylor's activities as founder and director of the Center for National Policy Review from 1970 to 1985 are documented in the records of that organization which are also held by the Manuscript Division.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William L. Taylor is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions. In addition, many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, William L. Taylor Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1931, Oct. 4	Born, Brooklyn, N.Y.
1952	B. A., Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, N.Y.
1954	LL. B., Yale University Law School, New Haven, Conn. Married Harriet Rosen
1955	Clerk, Office of the Corporation Counsel, New York, N.Y. Admitted to New York state bar
1955-1958	Staff attorney, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, New York, N.Y.
1959-1961	Legislative representative, Americans for Democratic Action
1961-1963	Assistant staff director for liaison and information and special assistant to the staff director, United States Commission on Civil Rights
1963-1965	General counsel, United States Commission on Civil Rights
1965-1968	Staff director, United States Commission on Civil Rights
1968-1969	Senior fellow, Yale University Law School, New Haven, Conn.
1970-1985	Director, Center for National Policy Review, Catholic University Law School, Washington, D.C. Faculty member, Catholic University Law School, Washington, D.C.
1971	Published <i>Hanging Together: Equality in an Urban Nation</i> . New York: Simon and Schuster Admitted to District of Columbia bar
1974	Published <i>Justice Delayed and Denied? Report of Investigation into Conduct of HEW's Handling of Responsibility Under Title VI</i> . Washington, D.C.: The Center for National Policy Review

1986	Established private law practice, Washington, D.C.
1986	Adjunct professor, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C.
1996-1997	Visiting professor of law, Stanford University Law School, Stanford, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William L. Taylor (1931-) relate primarily to Taylor's activities after he established his private law practice in 1986 and focus on his participation in efforts to pass civil rights legislation and to defeat the nominations of Robert H. Bork and Clarence Thomas to the United States Supreme Court. The collection spans the years 1971-1996, with the bulk of the material dating from 1987 to 1992. It is organized in two series: [Subject File](#) and [Miscellany](#).

Topics in the [Subject File](#) include the Civil Rights acts of 1990 and 1991. The files focus on the efforts of civil rights organizations, members of Congress, and others to draft and pass civil rights legislation countering Supreme Court decisions in the late 1980s which had modified civil rights protections, particularly in the area of employment. Organizations represented in this series include the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Among the files on the defeat of Robert H. Bork's nomination to the Supreme Court in 1987 are those relating to a letter-writing campaign started by Taylor in which law professors throughout the country wrote to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary opposing the Bork nomination. Also in the [Subject File](#) are transcripts of interviews with Taylor conducted by Michael Pertschuk and Wendy Schaetzel during the preparation of their book *The People Rising: The Campaign Against the Bork Nomination* (1989). Material pertaining to the nomination and confirmation of Clarence Thomas in 1991 includes handwritten drafts of testimony prepared by Taylor for the Congressional Black Caucus.

Included in the [Miscellany](#) series are speeches and writings by Taylor on civil rights and education. Among the topics covered are affirmative action and school desegregation.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in two series:

- [Subject File, 1971-1996](#)
- [Miscellany, 1983-1992](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-12

Series

Subject File, 1971-1996

Correspondence, memoranda, reports, notes, testimony, interview transcripts, newspaper clippings, and printed matter.

Arranged alphabetically by topic and therein chronologically.

BOX 12-13

Miscellany, 1983-1992

Speeches and documents relating to speaking engagements, writings, notes, and a transcript of testimony.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-12	Subject File, 1971-1996 Correspondence, memoranda, reports, notes, testimony, interview transcripts, newspaper clippings, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by topic and therein chronologically.
BOX 1	Bork, Robert H., nomination to United States Supreme Court
BOX 1	Background information, 1971-1976, 1987
BOX 1	General, 1987-1989, undated (7 folders)
BOX 1	Law schools, 1987
BOX 2	<i>The People Rising: The Campaign Against the Bork Nomination</i> by Michael Pertschuk and Wendy Schaetzel (1989)
BOX 2	Interviews, 1988-1989, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1988-1989, undated
BOX 2	Response to <i>Commentary</i> article by Suzanne Garment, 1988
BOX 2	Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights, 1992 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Civil Rights Act of 1990
BOX 2	1989 (2 folders)
BOX 3	1990
BOX 3	Jan.-Feb. (7 folders)
BOX 3	Mar. (1 folder)
BOX 4	(1 folder)
BOX 4	Apr.-Sept. (7 folders)
BOX 5	Oct.-Dec. (3 folders)
BOX 5	1991, undated (4 folders)
BOX 5	Civil Rights Act of 1991
BOX 5	Business Roundtable negotiations
BOX 6	General
BOX 6	1986-1990 (4 folders)
BOX 6	1991
BOX 6	Jan.-May (5 folders)
BOX 7	June-Nov. (6 folders)

Subject File, 1971-1996

Container	Contents
BOX 7	1992
BOX 8	1996, undated (3 folders)
BOX 8	Jewish organizations, 1990-1991
BOX 8	Language issues
BOX 8	“Anti-quota,” 1991, undated
BOX 8	“Race-naming,” 1991, undated
BOX 8	Raspberry, William, 1991
BOX 8	Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987
BOX 8	Amendments, 1985-1988, undated (3 folders)
BOX 9	Background information, 1984-1987
BOX 9	Congressional support, 1987-1988
BOX 9	Drafts of bill, 1987
BOX 9	General, 1987-1988, undated (2 folders)
BOX 9	Questions and answers, 1984-1987, undated (2 folders)
BOX 9	Testimony and statements, 1987-1988, undated
BOX 9	Council of Chief State School Officers, <i>School Success for Students at Risk</i> , 1988
BOX 10	Thomas, Clarence
BOX 10	United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, nomination, 1989-1990, undated
BOX 10	United States Supreme Court
BOX 10	Nomination
	Background information, 1980-1990
BOX 10	Congressional Black Caucus, 1991 (2 folders)
BOX 10	General
BOX 10	1991
BOX 10	June-July (5 folders)
BOX 11	Aug.-Oct. (6 folders)
BOX 11	1992
BOX 12	1994, undated (2 folders)
BOX 12	Law schools, 1987-1991
BOX 12	Record as justice, 1992-1994
BOX 12-13	Miscellany, 1983-1992 Speeches and documents relating to speaking engagements, writings, notes, and a transcript of testimony. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 12	Engagements, 1986-1988 (3 folders)
BOX 12	Speeches

Miscellany, 1983-1992

Container	Contents
BOX 12	1983-1985
BOX 12	1986 (3 folders)
BOX 13	(1 folder)
BOX 13	1987-1991 (4 folders)
BOX 13	Testimony, 1988
BOX 13	Writings, 1984-1992, undated (5 folders)